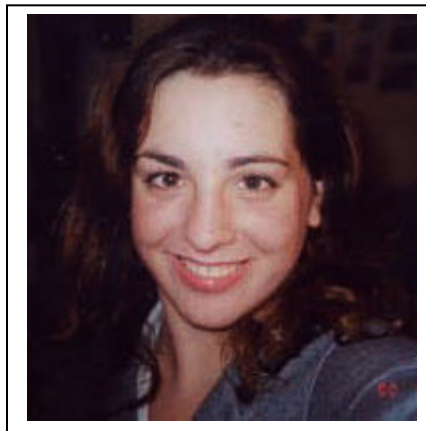

Wellesley College
Wellesley, MA

Biochemistry
Bachelor of Science, June 2003

**NASA Academy Research Project:
Delivery of Meteoric Organic
Matter to the Early Earth.**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Peter
Jenniskens



email: mbyrne@wellesley.edu

Experience:

I've spent the past two summers working at Johnson Space Center under Dr. David S. McKay's Astrobiology Group, with the researchers who first proposed evidence of life on the Martian meteorite ALH84001. But, as most geo-astrobiological research nowadays focuses more on the terrestrial instead of the extraterrestrial, my project focused on Bahamian stromatolites. I worked on an electron microscope with a chemical analysis array to study these amazing structures, and the work eventually led to presentations at four international conferences, as well as a paper which is to be published in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of Astrobiology.

Education:

Right now I'm a junior at Wellesley College, one of New England's coolest colleges for women. I am majoring in Biochemistry with a minor in Religion. I've also had the pleasure of taking two courses abroad over the winter term: Archaeology in the Bay of Naples and Culture and Society in Morocco. Both were amazing, eye-opening experiences that complement the amount of time I spend in the lab.

Extra- Curricular Interests:

I manage to find enough to amuse myself with when I'm not nose-deep in my Cell Physiology textbook. I sing as often as I can, either with my acappella group The BlueNotes or in musicals like Hair, or in my room with the door mercifully shut. I also sail a little bit on Wellesley's small Lake Waban, collect lipsticks and CDs, and happen to be a licensed bartender. I'm also really enjoying a class I'm taking in African dance, concentrating on the Senegalese agricultural ballets. Next year, instead of singing, I'm hoping to get my pilot's license at a nearby training school. Finally, I'm a huge Tolkien fan, and, since imitation is the greatest form of flattery, I'm at work on two languages of my own, Lyric and Gwanhiko. Maybe one day they'll be worth a story :)